

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CLAIM 1 FOR USPA 09/684,742

(MBHB Docket No. 08-880-US9)

1. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a sensor network comprising a plurality of nodes, wherein the plurality of nodes comprises at least one sensor node, ~~each sensor node~~ comprising at least one sensor, the method comprising:

organizing the plurality of nodes into a plurality of clusters by:

receiving an assembly packet from a first node at at least one node neighboring the first node, wherein the assembly packet includes a cluster indication and an instruction, wherein the instruction is either a become-base instruction or a become-remote instruction, and

in response to reception of the assembly packet at the at least one node,

[[if]] in response to the at least one node [[has]] having received a previous assembly packet, the at least one node ~~ignores~~ ignoring the assembly packet, and

[[if]] in response to the at least one node ~~has not~~ having received a previous assembly packet, the at least one node (i) ~~determines~~ determining a cluster for the node based on the cluster indication in the assembly packet, (ii) ~~modifies~~ modifying the assembly packet ~~to include a modified cluster indication,~~ and (iii) ~~transmits~~ transmitting the modified assembly packet ~~with the modified cluster indication to each node at least one~~ neighboring the node, wherein modifying the assembly packet comprises:

modifying the assembly packet to include a modified cluster indication,

in response to the instruction being a become-base instruction,
modifying the assembly packet to include a become-remote instruction,
and

in response to the instruction being a become-remote instruction,
modifying the assembly packet to include a become-base instruction;

collecting data using the at least one sensor node; and

distributing storage and processing of the collected data among the plurality of clusters comprising transferring data collected from the at least one sensor node to a node in a cluster other than a cluster comprising the at least one sensor node.